Rett Syndrome

“Light Tech” Communication part 1
Partner-Assisted Scanning: yes/no

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When Hands Don’t Work Well for Pointing

we need:

Alternative Means for Pointing

Eye-Pointing

Look at the one you want

Eye-Point Strategies

• Eye-Point – light tech informal
• Eye-Point – light tech formal
• Eye-Point – high tech formal

Touch Points Choices

• Tap a shoulder while stating each choice
• Wait for child to turn her head or move in anyway to that side
• If child doesn’t move either way, or drops her head, assume that her answer is “neither” and give her two other choices

Dale Gardner-Fox

No Choice is a Choice!

• None of those
• Something else
• I don’t know
• I’m not sure
• I don’t understand the options
Co-Planned Sequence Social Scripts

Experience a Sense of How a Conversation Flows and take the Lead!

Anatomy of a Conversation

www.lburkhart.com/handouts.htm

Can We Chat? handout from Closing the Gap 2001/2002 (pdf)
Caroline Masselos and Linda Burkhart
Sample Sequenced Social Scripts: Collected at Closing the Gap 2001
Caroline Masselos: pre-conference session
Anatomy of A Conversation: Social Scripts
Suggested Conversational Messages - Collected from Multiple Workshops (2000-2001) Linda J. Burkhart and Caroline Romsey Masselos

Sequenced Social Scripts

- Action Scripts: Bookreading, Songs, Everybody Do This, or Putting On Lotion
- Class/Work Participation Scripts:
  Studying for a test, Engaging in a Cooperative Activity,
  Be Song Leader, Story Leader, or Transition Leader
- Conversation Scripts: Guess What Happened?, Who’s Cute?, The Game Last Night, or Interview

Balloon Play Action Script

Let’s play with the balloon
Blow!
Blow some more!
Yeah!
Blow!
It’s getting big!
Make it squeak!
Ooooo that sounds funny!
Blow some more!
Let it go when I say...
1
2
3
Let it go!
Yeah!!!

Slowly now
1, 2, 3, go!
stop
Let’s go in circles, ready?
1, 2, 3, go!
weeeeee!
I’m getting dizzy!
Stop stop stop!
Let’s go backwards, wait
till I say go
Ready
1, 2, 3, go!
beep beep beep
Stop!
Thanks for the push!
Let’s do it again
sometime!

Hey there
Can you give me a push?
Better check my brakes
Ready to go?
I’ll tell you when
1, 2, 3 go!
Let’s go fast!
Stop
Stop stop stop!
That was great!
Get ready again...
Who wants to sing?
Let's sing the hammer song!
Start with one hand
Ready set go!
Johnny plays with one hammer, one hammer, one hammer (sing)
Johnny plays with one hammer, all day long! (sing)
Yeah!
Now we do 2 hands
Ready set go!
Johnny plays with two hammers, two hammers, two hammers (sing)
Johnny plays with two hammers, all day long! (sing)
Yeah!
Now add your head!
That makes 3 hammers
Ready set go!
Johnny plays with three hammers, three hammers, three hammers (sing)
Johnny plays with three hammers, all day long! (sing)
Yeah!
That was great!

Pretend Play Cooking Script
Hey everybody
Who wants to cook with me?
Let's make some soup
What should we put in it?
Mmm that smells good
stir it up really well
how about adding some
potatoes?
Be careful it's hot!
Do you think it's ready yet?
How about a taste?
We sure can cook!

Script: Pretend Play: Doctor - Shot
Okay.
Let me see.
I think you need a shot.
This might hurt a little.
Do you want it in your arm or leg?
Hold still.
I'm going to give you the shot now.
You will feel better soon.
Don't cry!
Here it comes.
Finished!
Now let me give you a bandage.
You'll be all better soon.
Come back later and if you need medicine.
Thank you. Good bye.

Script: Transition Line Up
Yo.
Where is everybody?
It's time for ___________.
Is everybody ready?
Better hurry up
We're missing a few people.
It's time to start.
We don't have all day.
You snooze, you lose!
Come on, guys.
Okay we're gonna start now.

Script: Last Weekend
Hey!
What's up?
What did you do last weekend?
Did you have fun?
I went swimming.
I went with my folks and my brother.
It was fun.
What else did you do?
I love weekends!
Maybe we can do something some weekend.
Call me!

Script: Rubber Pencil
Excuse me.
I need some help.
I need to write down a phone number.
I have a pencil here. Can you write it for me on this paper?
O.K., ready?
The number is . . . 623 . . .
Is there a problem?
Are you sure you're holding the pencil right?
I think you need to just press a little harder on the paper.
Hey, where did you learn how to write?
Ha ha, it's a rubber pencil!
Who should we get next???
Co-Planning is Key!

Partner-Assisted Scanning

Learning Yes/No as an Alternative to Pointing - NOT for Responding to Random Questions

Time for Dessert

Would you like an apple?
Yes or No?

Would you like this?
Yes or No?

Ok… I guess you don’t want anything…
Another Approach

Group / Item Scan:
shelf-by-shelf, tray-by-tray
plus “none of those or something else”

Why is Yes / No So Hard and Often Seen as Inconsistent?

Use two movements to reject & accept - differentiated “YES” / “NO” signals

• Apraxia - Less skill required from the partner by eliminating the timing element

• Allows the child to control the speed of the communication

Partner-Assisted Scanning With Objects in the Environment and with a PODD

May begin with yes/no switches for targets and feedback of head nod (down) or shake (to the side)

Personal Talkers from:
www.attainmentcompany.com/

Fade the use of Yes/No switches and move to head movements (nod and shake) for Yes/No over time
Practice Yes/No in Fun Ways

• Sometimes - just practice a few times throughout the day in a fun interactive way, but without a particular message

• Use objects, toys, food, etc. to line up some choices, always including none of those or something else as the last option

Choose objects, choose a color, choose a book, etc.

Stack of Dry-Erase Boards
“Who do you want to sit with?”

Testing and Direct Questions
last item always:
“I don’t know” and maybe “Get my communication book”

Partner-Assisted Scanning with iPad Apps - Scan places to touch on the screen with a pipe cleaner pointer

Partner-Assisted Scanning
With a Robust Language System
Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display Communication Books (PODD)
Scanning is giving the child an alternative means to point.

This one, no.
This one, no.
This one, yes.

Scan vs. Series of Questions

Scan

- something’s wrong
- want something
- go somewhere

Is something wrong?
Do you want something?
Do you want to go somewhere?

Scan like the Auditory Scan on a Speech Generating Device

- Monotone voice for scan
- Social voice for message and interaction
- Even, rhythmical pace
- No excess ‘verbal clutter’ within the scan
- Do not turn auditory cue into a question

Scan patterns

PODD

Linear
Column-item
Section-column-item

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